

Summary of Certification Advisory Committee Minutes
EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING CERTIFICATE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008

Members Present

Mr. Tim Carter
Ms. Carol Christine
Mr. Frank Garcia (Telephonically)
Mr. Jac Heiss
Mr. Kevin Kapp
Mr. Chris Maza
Mr. Andrew Morrill
Ms. Kim Peaslee
Ms. Lani Simmons (Telephonically)

Members Absent

Ms. Bobbie Darroch
Ms. Jana Kooi
Ms. Anne Thiebeau

III. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS TO ADDRESS THE JULY 1, 2009 REQUIREMENT RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING CERTIFICATE

Ms. Amator explained that as of July 1, 2009 anyone teaching in a federally or state funded preschool must have a certificate or endorsement. There are people in the pipeline who are working to meet this requirement, but who do not have a degree in early childhood and will not meet the requirement by the stated deadline. To address this issue staff suggested an intern certificate (like K-12) for preschool only.

Vince and Andrew brought forth other options:

Handouts of the three options were provided (Option A, Option B, and Option C)

Ms. Amator went over the language and outlined the three options.

Option A - Extend deadline. Change R7-2-608(A) to July 1, 2012

Option B - R7-2-612(F) Early Childhood Teaching Intern Certificate – Birth Through Preschool

Option C - Exactly the same as Option B without sunseting

These options were presented to start a discussion among the committee.

Mr. Heiss asked what the purpose of number 5 is. Ms. Amator stated the interns need to be very serious and the rational she was given was that this was to avoid interns starting and stopping.

Vice Chair Peaslee asked by Option A will allow districts to maintain their funding. Ms. Corriveau stated their funding would not be effected.

Mr. Carter asked where the options came from. Ms. Corriveau said that Option A is how the law is written right now – they just changed the date to 2012. Ms. Corriveau collaborated with head start and an outside consultant who did a review and projected that 80% would be in compliance by 2012. Option B came about from a meeting Ms. Corriveau and Ms. Amator had with Certification and Highly Qualified Professionals staff. Option C language is the same sans the sunseting language. Stakeholders were concerned with the language pertaining to the degree requirement; however, they are comfortable with the language so long as it was reviewed in five years.

Mr. Carter asked if there were people from the field on stakeholder group. Ms. Corriveau stated there were teachers and head start representatives.

Mr. Maza stated if the issue is time, it would be logical to extend the date as opposed to creating another vehicle in order to get a certificate.

A discussion was held regarding the federal mandate on the bachelor degree requirement. Vice Chair Peaslee was concerned funds would be effected if there they were not meeting the requirement.

Ms. Amator was asked if there are more approved preparation programs for early childhood. Ms. Corriveau stated there are four and one is currently being reviewed.

Vice Chair Peaslee asked why the deadline is 2012 and not 2013. Ms. Corriveau stated studies showed districts could be in compliance by 2012. Vice Chair Peaslee clarified there is an hour requirement not a certification requirement for licensure. Licenses are issued by the Department of Health.

A motion to approved Option A to extend the deadline to July 1, 2012, was moved by Mr. Carter and seconded by Mr. Garcia.

Vice Chair Peaslee stated she wanted to be sure Option A will not effect Early Childhood block grant funding or Part B funding for any schools or any programs that would lead to the reduction of preschool programs. Ms. Corriveau stated funds are based on how many students they have not how many teachers are in compliance. Funds are based free and reduced lunch numbers and the IDA Preschools that are serviced.

Motion passed with one objection.